

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION**

MELISSA ANN HODDE,

Plaintiff,

v.

KILOLO KIJAKAZI,

Acting Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:19-CV-44 PLC

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff’s petition to award attorney fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412. [ECF No. 24] Plaintiff requests an award of \$4,103.45, representing 21.4 hours of attorney work at a rate of \$191.75 per hour. Plaintiff attaches an “Assignment of Federal Court EAJA Attorney Fee,” in which she assigned any court-awarded EAJA attorney fees to her attorney, Traci L. Severs. [ECF No. 24-2]

Defendant filed a response to Plaintiff’s petition to award attorney fees, in which she states: “Defendant has no objection to Plaintiff’s request for attorney fees under the EAJA in the amount of \$4,103.045.” [ECF No. 25] Defendant requests that the Court “enter an order specifically awarding attorney fees of \$4,103.45 to be paid by the Social Security Administration.” [*Id.*] She notes, however, that any award of attorney fees is subject to offset to satisfy any preexisting debt Plaintiff owes to the United States. See Astrue v. Ratliff, 560 U.S. 586 (2010).

After careful consideration,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff’s petition for attorney fees [ECF No. 24] is **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff is awarded EAJA attorney fees in the amount of \$4,103.45, subject to offset for any preexisting debt that the Plaintiff owes to the United States. After determining whether Plaintiff owes any debt to the United States that is subject to offset, Defendant is directed to pay the EAJA fees directly to Plaintiff's attorney.



PATRICIA L. COHEN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Dated this 27th day of September, 2021